

"If Congress can't even pass a law to help save kids from sex abuse, what can it get right?"

Well, that is a fair question and a tough but necessary question. When you see what Chairman SCOTT is doing, it is easy to see why Congress's approval rating is so abysmal. If a high-ranking leader of a House committee will block commonsense legislation that is directed at stopping child sexual abuse, how can the American people have faith in Congress's ability to accomplish anything?

Now is not the time to play politics or use child sexual abuse victims as leverage. This bill is one step away from going to the President's desk, and Congressman SCOTT is the only one standing in the way.

It is time to quit playing games and allow the Jenna Quinn Law to pass.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. President, now on one final matter, we are less than 1 month away from the biannual changing of the guard in Congress before we gavel out for the year. I want to say just a few comments about our friend from Colorado who will soon be leaving the Senate, Senator CORY GARDNER.

Senator GARDNER has proudly represented the people of Colorado for 15 years, first in the State House, then in the House of Representatives, and now in the U.S. Senate.

Once you get to know CORY, it is easy to see how this "boy from Yuma" became such a trusted voice for his home State.

For starters, he is a prime example of what Ronald Reagan called a "happy warrior." At the end of his speech in 1985, President Reagan spoke about the pursuit of high ideals like liberty, freedom, and fairness, and the reasons our country has to be hopeful and optimistic. He said: "So, let us go forth with good cheer and stout hearts—happy warriors out to seize back a country and a world to freedom."

Those qualities of "good cheer and stout hearts" could not be a more appropriate description of our friend from Colorado. Senator GARDNER has maintained a very keen understanding of the challenges we have faced as a nation, and he channels his passion and his optimism in finding solutions to those challenges.

There is no question that he does get results. In the 6 years he has been in the Senate, CORY has accomplished more than some Senators have accomplished in double or maybe even triple that time. He has been a strong voice on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has helped lead changes to counter some of the most pressing threats facing our country.

He helped pass the first-ever sanctions on North Korea to denuclearize one of the most untethered states and nations in the world. He fought to hold China accountable for their gross human rights violations, specifically those targeting the Uighur people. He has led efforts to strengthen the rela-

tionship between the United States and Taiwan.

But I think the accomplishments he is most proud of are those that hit much closer to home. Cory introduced legislation to designate 9-8-8 as a national suicide prevention and mental health hotline. It is impossible to know how many lives have been and will be saved by simply adopting this three-digit phone number.

This last year, he led in the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the largest conservation bill in a generation.

A big factor in CORY's success has been his relationships with his fellow Senators—not those backroom transactional relationships you think of, perhaps, when you think about politics, but I mean real friendships with folks throughout the Capitol Complex. If there were a Mr. or Ms. Congeniality contest in Congress, CORY would win by a landslide.

It is common to see him talking not only with Senators from both parties but staffers in other offices. He was once a staffer in Senator Wayne Allard's office. So he can identify with them, as well as the Capitol Police, and the countless men and women who keep Congress running, from cafeteria workers to cleaning staff.

He greets every person with the same genuine smile and is glad to spend a few minutes chatting, asking about your family, holiday plans, or how someone's day is going. That sincerity—his willingness to listen and deal with people on such a human and personal level—is something we need more of, not less of, here in Washington, especially these days.

So the Senate will miss our happy warrior and the trademark positivity he brings to even the most contentious debates. And while we are sad to see him go, I know this isn't the last we will hear of or see of CORY GARDNER. The only thing more enduring than his energy is his drive to help people from all places and in all walks of life.

So, while our colleagues are sad to bid farewell to our friend CORY, we know that Jaime, Alyson, Caitlyn, and Thatcher are all eager to have him back home in Yuma and see more of him and spend more time together.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, millions and millions of people will breathe a bit easier on January 20. That relief will be especially sweet for those who suffered under Donald Trump's cold-hearted approach to immigration and asylum.

The President has built a wall to immigrants, but it is not made of fencing or brick and mortar. The President has rebuilt the infamous paper wall, like that of the 1930s, which kept too many Jews out of the United States, trapping them within the murderous regime of Nazi Germany.

The paper wall was built on anti-migrant regulations, including one targeting anybody who might become a so-called public charge. It was reinforced by racism, anti-Semitism, and nativism. It created bureaucratic roadblocks that had no purpose other than to frustrate applicants, block visas and refugees, and slow immigration to a trickle. That is awfully familiar to those who watched Donald Trump succeed horribly at repeating some of America's worst immigration mistakes.

In the last 4 years, I have often thought about my late mom and dad who were refugees to America. My parents were German Jews who fled the Nazis.

Not all of our family got out. My great-uncle, Max, was one of the last to be gassed at Auschwitz.

When my father arrived here at 13, he barely spoke any English. He studied hard. When the war came, my dad, who wasn't exactly built like Captain America, wanted more than anything to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army. My dad essentially talked his way into the service. He joined the Army's psychological warfare division because, with his fluent German, my dad wrote propaganda pamphlets that our planes dropped on the enemy soldiers that were retreating further and further back toward Berlin.

I have seen those pamphlets, and—with a little son pride—they were smoking. They just told the Nazis they didn't have a chance. In contrast, the materials their military dropped on our soldiers was written in mangled English—comical stuff. My dad has really been singled out. He is in the Holocaust Museum for his contributions for helping our Army beat the Nazis, and after the war, he became a journalist and an author.

My mom came in 1939, a few years after my dad. During the war, she served in the Women's Army Corps. She was in England, France, and Germany, and on the wall at home is a picture of my mom in her WAC uniform. You can look at that picture, and you can see pride in serving our country from every single pore.

After the war, my mom had a long career as a research librarian, and she worked even harder raising her oldest son, who mostly wanted to play NBA basketball instead of hitting the books.

Both my parents felt so blessed that they could get out of Germany. They made it over the paper wall. They had a chance to become Americans.

Most Jewish families in the United States have stories just like these. Some were able to get out; others were left behind, and some were lost.